<u>REMARKS</u>

Upon entry of this amendment, Applicant notes that claims 1, 12-14, 18-21, 23, 26-28, 31, 32, 35, 40, 48, 51, 54 and 57 are all the claims pending in this application. Claims 61-70 have been canceled by this amendment, as requested by the Examiner in the Office Action. Applicant also notes that minor editorial changes have been made to claims 23 and 28.

In addition, regarding the above-noted pending claims, Applicant notes that the Examiner inadvertently did not list claim 28 as one of the pending claims in the application. Applicant points out, however, that claim 28 was elected in the Response to the Restriction Requirement on February 9, 2007, and that the Examiner examined claim 28 in the Office Action dated May 17, 2007. Accordingly, claim 28 should be indicated as being allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue at the earliest possible time. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Masahiro HONJO

Kenneth W. Fields

Registration No. 52,430

Attorney for Applicant

KWF/ra Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 February 4, 2008